

REMARKS

With respect to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1 – 10. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's determination that Invention I - IV are patentably distinct.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement between Inventions I-IV. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of Claims 1-10, Claims 11-14, Claims 15 and 17-19 and Claim 16 are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of Group I would necessarily encompass a search of the subject matter of Groups II-IV. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden, as asserted by the Office action.

MPEP §803 states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

With respect to Group I, Applicant elects Species I, Claim 1 – 8. It is noted that the Office action indicates that there are no generic claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, Applicant asserts that at least independent Claims 1 and 9 read on Figures 1-10, and therefore are generic.

In view of the foregoing, this election is made with traverse. Favorable reconsideration of the Restriction/Election requirement is respectfully requested.

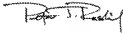
Should Examiner Ross believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance; the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 50-2867 in the name of Kennametal, Inc.

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Respectfully submitted,

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